

What is claimed is:

1. An autonomous multi-services card that comprises:

a computer interface that is configured for coupling to a host computer connection and that is operational to exchange data with the host computer connection;

a telephone interface that is configured for coupling to a telephone connection and that is operational to exchange voice signals with the telephone connection;

a network interface that is configured for coupling to a network connection and that is operational to exchange the data and the voice signals with the network connection;

a communications processing system that is operational to control the exchange of the voice signals with the telephone connection and with the network connection without any control input from the host computer connection, and to control the exchange of the data with the host computer connection and with the network connection;

communication paths that connect the communications processing system with the computer interface, the telephone interface, and the network interface; and

a substrate that is configured for physical attachment to a computer-compatible slot and that is connected to the computer interface, the telephone interface, the network interface, the communications processing system, and the communication paths.

2. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 wherein the network interface is further operational to exchange asynchronous transfer mode communications with the network connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the asynchronous transfer mode communications with the network connection.

3. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 wherein the network interface is further operational to exchange Ethernet communications with the network connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the Ethernet communications with the network connection.

4. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 wherein the network interface is further operational to exchange digital subscriber line communications with the network connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the digital subscriber line communications with the network connection.

5. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 wherein the network interface is further operational to exchange internet communications with the network connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the internet communications with the network connection.

6. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 wherein the computer interface is further operational to exchange internet communications with the host computer connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange internet communications with the host computer connection.

7. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 wherein the telephone interface is further operational to exchange analog telephone signals with the telephone connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the analog telephone signals with the telephone connection.

8. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 wherein the network interface is further operational to exchange modem communications with the network connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the modem communications with the network connection.

9. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 wherein the modem communications are cable modem communications.

10. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 9 wherein the modem communications are wireless modem communications.

11. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 9 wherein the modem communications are telephone modem communications.

12. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 wherein the network interface is further operational to automatically sense the protocol used over the network connection.

13. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 wherein the computer interface is further operational to receive power from the host computer connection.

14. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 further comprising a battery terminal.

15. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 further comprising a voice coder/decoder.

16. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 wherein the telephone interface is operational to detect off-hook conditions, to detect on-hook conditions, to detect tones, to provide dial tone, to provide ring current, to provide ringback tones, and to provide busy tones.

17. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 16 wherein the communications processing system is operational to control the telephone interface to generate and receive telephone calls.

18. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 further comprising an enclosure that includes the slot.

19. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 18 wherein the enclosure includes a battery terminal.

20. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 wherein:

the network interface is operational to exchange asynchronous transfer mode communications and internet communications with the network connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the asynchronous transfer mode communications and internet communications with the network connection;

the telephone interface is further operational to exchange analog telephone signals with the telephone connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the analog telephone signals with the telephone connection; and

the computer interface is further operational to exchange the internet communications with the host computer connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the internet communications with the host computer connection.

21. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 20 further comprising:

a video interface that is configured for coupling to a video connection and that is operational to exchange video signals with the video connection; and wherein

the network interface is further operational to exchange the video signals with the network connection;

the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the video signals with the video connection and with the network connection without the control input from the host computer;

the communication paths further connect the communications processing system with the video interface; and

the substrate is further connected to the video interface.

22. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 20 wherein the communications processing system is operational to control the telephone interface to generate and receive telephone calls.

23. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 22 wherein the telephone interface is operational to detect off-hook conditions, to detect on-hook conditions, to detect tones, to provide dial tone, to provide ring current, to provide ringback tones, and to provide busy tones.

24. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 23 wherein the network interface is further operational to exchange modem communications with the network connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the modem communications with the network connection.

25. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 24 wherein the network interface is further operational to exchange digital subscriber line communications with the network connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the digital subscriber line communications with the network connection.

26. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 25 wherein the network interface is further operational to exchange Ethernet communications with the network connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the Ethernet communications with the network connection.

27. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 1 further comprising:

a video interface that is configured for coupling to a video connection and that is operational to exchange video signals with the video connection; and wherein

the network interface is further operational to exchange the video signals with the network connection;

the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the video signals with the video connection and with the network connection without the control input from the host computer;

the communication paths further connect the communications processing system with the video interface; and

the substrate is further connected to the video interface.

28. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 27 further comprising a video coder/decoder.

29. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 28 wherein the communications processing system is operational to control the telephone interface to generate and receive telephone calls.

30. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 29 wherein the telephone interface is operational to detect off-hook conditions, to detect on-hook conditions, to detect tones, to provide dial tone, to provide ring current, to provide ringback tones, and to provide busy tones.

31. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 30 wherein the network interface is further operational to exchange modem communications with the network connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the modem communications with the network connection.

32. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 31 wherein the network interface is further operational to exchange digital subscriber line communications with the network connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the digital subscriber line communications with the network connection.

33. The autonomous multi-services card of claim 32 wherein the network interface is further operational to exchange Ethernet communications with the network connection and wherein the communications processing system is further operational to control the exchange of the Ethernet communications with the network connection.